

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraphs [0006]; [0007], and [0037], as follows:

[0006] One aspect of performance that is affected by the present invention is referred to as polarization dependent wavelength (PDW). This term, as well as a number of related terms, will now be defined. Spectral transmissivity (in units of dB) is defined as the optical power (in units of dBm) of substantially monochromatic light that emerges from the fiber that is coupled to the input port minus the optical power (in units of dBm) of the light that enters the optical fiber that is coupled to the output port of the optical router. Spectral transmissivity is a function of the selected input port, the selected output port, the optical wavelength, and the polarization state of the incident light. When the incident light is in a polarization state called a “~~principle~~ principal state of polarization,” the light will be in the same polarization state when it emerges from the device. For purposes of illustration only, the ~~principle~~ principal states of polarization are assumed to be independent of wavelength, input port and output port. It is understood that the invention is not so limited by this assumption.

[0007] Again, for the purposes of illustration only, it will be assumed that the two ~~principle~~ principal states of polarization are the so-called transverse electric (TE) and transverse magnetic (TM) polarization states. The TE polarization state has an electric field that is predominantly aligned in the transverse direction and the TM polarization state has an electric field that is predominantly aligned in the lateral direction. Again, the invention is not so limited to devices having these ~~principle~~ principal states of polarization.

[0037] An example of another method of PDW reduction which varies the lengths of the relevant waveguides as well as utilizes the results of β_{TM} and β_{TE} may be found in the commonly-assigned U.S. Patent Application Serial number 09/870,876, entitled “Arrayed Waveguide Grating With Waveguides Of Unequal Widths” to Kenneth McGreer, filed on May 30, 2001 and which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.